



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on the Elections in Moldova

As delivered by Chargé d' Affaires Kyle Scott
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
June 14, 2007

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

The United States would like to congratulate the people and Government of Moldova on the local elections held June 3rd. We would like to commend the Central Election Commission for overseeing an election marked by genuine choice and transparency. We are particularly encouraged by the inclusion of ethnic minority and politically independent candidates. We note that voter turnout was sufficient to produce valid results. And, we are pleased that the election day was generally calm and voting was conducted legally.

Despite being generally successful, the United States notes several areas where the elections fell short of internationally accepted standards. There were numerous complaints of candidates withdrawing from the election because of pressure and intimidation. Observers noted that several media sources, especially Moldova 1 and Radio Moldova, did not allocate coverage equitably to candidates and opposition parties, thus indicating a clear bias toward the ruling party. Other instances of malfeasance at polling stations and elsewhere are distressing, even if international observers judged that these were not sufficient to undermine the overall results.

We also note sadly that voting did not take place in Transnistria, again. The United States hopes that Transnistria will have more positive involvement in future elections.

We look forward to improvements as Moldova prepares for the runoff elections on June 17th. We look forward also to the ODIHR final report and the specific recommendations for reform in Moldovan elections. We will call on Moldova to implement these reforms swiftly and fully in order to continue advancing democracy and transparency in the country.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.